

COLLEGE COUNCILS

IN HIS LIFETIME, OUR FOUNDER, VENERABLE MICHAEL MCGIVNEY, WAS KNOWN FOR HIS SPECIAL RAPPORT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE. WE CAN IMAGINE THE JOY THAT MUST FILL HIS HEART AS HE OBSERVES THE ORDER'S COLLEGE COUNCILS FROM HEAVEN. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WHEN FATHER MCGIVNEY LOOKS AT OUR COLLEGE KNIGHTS, HE FINDS THE SAME DEDICATION, ENTHUSIASM, AND COMMITMENT TO SERVICE THAT ANIMATED HIS MINISTRY.

OUR COLLEGE KNIGHTS ARE SIGNS OF THE ORDER'S SUCCESSFUL PAST AND HARBINGERS OF ITS BRIGHT FUTURE. ON ONE HAND, THEY STRIVE TO CARRY ON THE ORDER'S PRINCIPLES AND TRADITIONS, AND TO FURTHER ITS GOALS WITH THE SAME DEDICATION AS GENERATIONS OF KNIGHTS HAVE BEFORE THEM. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY ARE LEADING THE WAY FORWARD, PROPELLING THE ORDER TO EVER GREATER HEIGHTS THROUGH INNOVATION, EVANGELIZATION, AND DEDICATION TO OUR FAITH.

COLLEGE KNIGHTS COME FROM MANY DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND BRING DIVERSE TALENTS AND SKILLS TO OUR

ORDER. SOME HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DEVOUT CATHOLICS. OTHERS ARE NEW TO THE CHURCH, OR ARE RETURNING AFTER LONG ABSENCE. SOME LOOK FORWARD TO THE JOY OF MARRIED LIFE, OTHERS ARE DISCERNING A VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD OR RELIGIOUS LIFE. SOME ARE ATHLETES AND SOLDIERS. OTHERS ARE CAMPUS ACTIVISTS AND SCHOLARS. COLLEGE KNIGHTS ARE DIVERSE IN THEIR INTERESTS AND ABILITIES, BUT UNITED IN FAITH AND FRATERNITY.

MOST COLLEGE KNIGHTS ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT OR OTHER GROUPS. THE ORDER DOES NOT SEEK TO MONOPOLIZE A MAN'S TIME BUT TO HELP HIM BECOME A MORE FAITHFUL CATHOLIC, A MORE CAPABLE LEADER, A MORE PATRIOTIC CITIZEN, AND A MORE LOVING BOYFRIEND OR HUSBAND. IN OTHER WORDS, WE SEEK TO HELP FORM CATHOLIC GENTLEMEN.

OUR COLLEGE COUNCILS ARE MADE ALL THE MORE REMARKABLE BY THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES THEY FACE. CONSIDER THE TRANSITIONAL NATURE OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP. EVERY YEAR, TRUSTED AND EXPERIENCED KNIGHTS GRADUATE AND LEAVE CAMPUS. THE OFFICERS THAT TAKE THEIR PLACE DO NOT HAVE THE

OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE UP "THROUGH THE RANKS" LIKE OFFICERS IN OTHER COUNCILS. COLLEGE OFFICERS GAIN EXPERIENCE BY "DOING" - THEY ARE FORCED TO LEARN QUICKLY AND ACCEPT REAL RESPONSIBILITY. COLLEGE KNIGHTHOOD IS A TRIAL BY FIRE; A TRIAL WHICH PURIFIES AND PREPARES THESE YOUNG MEN FOR FUTURE LEADERSHIP IN THE ORDER.

THESE MEN ARE NOT JUST THE ORDER'S FUTURE, BUT THEY ARE THE PRESENT. TODAY, THESE MEN ARE THE LAY LEADERS RESPONSIBLE FOR EVANGELIZING THEIR CAMPUS COMMUNITIES. I CHALLENGE YOU TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A NEW COUNCIL AT A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IN YOUR AREA. REACH OUT TO THE COLLEGE COUNCILS DEPARTMENT AT THE SUPREME COUNCIL FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN YOUR EFFORTS AND KNOW OF MY SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION. DO THIS AND YOU WILL BE CLOSELY FOLLOWING THE PATH ON WHICH FATHER MCGIVNEY EMBARKED IN 1882.

VIVAT JESUS!